

MAY 2006

THE LATEST NEWS FROM TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Greetings from the Executive Director 1
- Earth Day Events 2
- DOI Volunteer Workday 2
- City Spotlight:  
Aurora, Colorado 3
- Partner Spotlight:  
CWPT Park Day 3
- Awards Spotlight:  
USACE Volunteers 4
- New Supporter: NWF 4

### UPCOMING EVENTS

National River Cleanup  
Week  
May 13-21, 2006  
[www.nationalrivercleanup.com](http://www.nationalrivercleanup.com)

Good Sam Club's National  
Cleanup Day  
May 20-21, 2006  
[www.goodsamclub.com](http://www.goodsamclub.com)

National Trails Day  
June 3, 2006  
[www.americanhiking.org/  
events/ntd](http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd)

National Fishing and Boating  
Week  
June 3-11, 2006  
[www.nationalfishingand  
boatingweek.org](http://www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.org)

Great Outdoors Week  
June 12-16, 2006  
[www.funoutdoors.com](http://www.funoutdoors.com)

National Clean Beaches  
Week  
June 29 – July 5, 2006  
[www.cleanbeaches.org](http://www.cleanbeaches.org)

## Greetings from the Executive Director

What a great way to kick off spring and volunteer season! As my first event as Executive Director, I joined the Clean Beaches Council, a Take Pride Charter Partner, and nearly three hundred other volunteers to clean the beaches in Orange County, California on Earth Day. I was delighted to meet Century High School teacher Tessa Heaney and the fifty students she brought to participate at Aliso Creek Beach, just one of the many groups that participated.

Next, in celebration of National Volunteer Week, Take Pride encouraged our co-workers at the Department of the Interior to get out and get active. More than 60 employees came to help with the Capital River Relief project, including Acting Secretary Scarlett! As our events for 2006 continue to unfold across the country, I look forward to seeing more of our partners and participants in the spirit of volunteerism.

Please continue to use Take Pride as a resource to register your events and provide recognition awards for your outstanding volunteers; also, don't forget to send us photos and write-ups so we continue to have great stories to share within the pages of *In Touch with Take Pride*.

Sincerely,

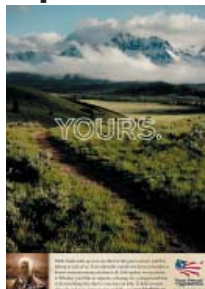
*Michelle Cangelosi*

Michelle Cangelosi



Michelle Cangelosi (left) congratulates Geoffrey Manis with Living Lands & Waters, as Acting Secretary Lynn Scarlett presents him a Take Pride Appreciation Certificate.

## Special Thanks to Take Pride in Southern Nevada



Southern Nevada television viewers have seen an extra dose of Clint Eastwood. The Take Pride PSA campaign featuring Eastwood was broadcast in January on ten cable channels, three network channels, and three community channels in Las Vegas, Nevada. Channels such as Fox News, Bravo, History, USA, and National Geographic ran the ads 74 times to reach an estimated

audience of more than 116,000 viewers during primetime.

The Take Pride in Southern Nevada program, funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and managed by the Public Lands Institute at UNLV, made an early commitment to the national campaign by contributing funds. Project Manager Doug Joslin worked with both the UNLV Public Affairs Office, and the Marketing and Public Relations Office to secure paid and unpaid airing of the PSAs.

# Take Pride Earth Day Events Across America: April 22, 2006

## Laguna Beach, California

On a cloudy day with rain threatening, nearly 300 hundred people came to clean up four beaches of Orange County, California as part of an Earth Day Celebration sponsored by Clean Beaches Council, Blue Water Events, and Take Pride in America. Armed with trash bags, fifty students from Century High School in Santa Ana and Girl Scout Troop 41 of Huntington Beach were just some of the participants who picked up litter left behind on the OC's scenic beaches. The clean up was followed by a tree planting at nearby Doheny Beach State Park and a music and art festival at Aliso Beach, featuring the work of local artists and celebrating Earth Day.

## New Orleans, Louisiana

National Park Service Director Fran Mainella celebrated Earth Day in style by recognizing the hard work of seventeen volunteers and organizations in New Orleans, Louisiana. At a ceremony at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, Director Mainella presented Take Pride Appreciation Certificates to honor and recognize several organizations that have had a role in restoring the cultural fabric of New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. The presentation of the Take Pride Presidential Awards to Bob and Joy Foy was particularly special, as each has contributed more than 8,000 hours upon their return to New Orleans by volunteering to plan the Battle of New Orleans celebration at Jean LaFitte NHP and bringing the New Orleans NHP Visitor Center back to life.

## Roseburg, Oregon

At the Douglas County Earth Day and Energy Fair in Roseburg, Oregon, nearly 3,500 people gathered to learn about traditional and alternative energy sources, how public lands help meet energy needs and energy uses around the world. The booth was sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management and featured an interactive display for kids to play which matched various countries of the world with everyday appliances which consume an amount of energy equal to that country's usage. While many participants learned about energy inside, six teams of volunteers lined the Umpqua River for a clean up, as well as performed trail maintenance on surrounding areas. Thanks to the BLM-Roseburg District for providing trash bags, gloves and safety items to help volunteers do their part for Earth Day!

*National Park Service Director Fran Mainella presents Take Pride Presidential Awards to Bob and Joy Foy for thousands of hours of service.*



# DOI Employees Lend A Hand to Local DC River

On Saturday, April 29, more than sixty Department of the Interior employees volunteered in their own Take Pride project with Capital River Relief to clean the Po-

*Interior employees gather garbage from the banks of the Anacostia River.*



tomac River. Acting Secretary P. Lynn Scarlett was there to thank volunteers for their time, but also to get her hands dirty and her feet wet to pull debris and litter from one of Washington's most famous rivers. Employees, their families and friends worked in three-hour shifts to gather hundreds of bags of garbage from the banks of the river.

"For all of us at the Department, this is a rewarding experience. Managing public lands may be our job, but today we were able to step

outside our door and make a difference by volunteering in our own backyard," said Scarlett. "Days like today help add value to the jobs that we do every day."

This year marks the third year of DOI employee participation with Capital River Relief, a month long project hosted by a coalition of environmental groups. These businesses, community and government organizations work together to remove trash from the Potomac and Anacostia watersheds.



## CITY SPOTLIGHT

### Canal Clean Up Prepares Aurora for Spring Recreation

Clad in orange safety vests and armed with gloves, trash pickers and garbage bags, nearly 500 volunteers converged for the Great High Line Canal Clean Up on March 18 in Aurora, Colorado for a Take Pride in Aurora city event.

This year's event had the highest registration rate in its eight-year history. Mayor Ed Tauer, the City Council and volunteers young and old came out to remove seven tons of trash – the approximate weight of eight Volkswagen Bugs – from the canal this year!

Held along the 11-miles of the High Line Canal that snakes through Aurora, the canal clean up removed debris before the spring release of water where trash could be swept into nearby Toll Gate and Sand Creeks.

"It's such a great event," said Ellen Belef, one of the founding members of Bicycle Aurora, a bicycling advocacy group. "Our group often sponsors fun rides

on the canal, so this is the perfect event for us. These volunteers make an obvious and visible impact in our city. Community involvement is so important and this is a great way to help out."

High Line is a high-use recreation area that receives about 500,000 visitors per year along its 66-mile length. Popular as a biking, hiking and running trail, the clean up provides a way for its users to give back by helping to beautify Aurora, as well as provides an important environmental component. Aurora joined the Take Pride Cities program in March 2005.

*Aurora residents gather to remove debris that could clog local streams during the Great High Line Canal Clean Up. Provided by Greg Fischer*



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### CWPT Park Day Renews Spirit in Selma, Alabama

*On Saturday, April 1, hundreds of volunteers participated in the Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day. They descended upon America's Civil War battlefields to preserve their legacy in our country's history. Below is an account from Linda Derry, the site director for Old Cahawba Archaeological Site in Selma, Alabama.*

This event was very special to us. Our visitor center was hit by lightning in August, and staffing and budget issues left the park staff a bit depressed. Having community volunteers rally around us during park day and accomplish so much has really renewed our faith in public land and our community's support of these publicly held resources. We had 22 volunteers, and thank goodness they brought much needed equipment for these tasks. They cleaned two big dump trailers of trash out of an 1840s historic house and got it ready for a restoration project. We also removed old, abandoned trailers and appliances from newly acquired lands within the park. We calculated that well over 37 tons of trash were removed from the park, including six old, abandoned trailers. 37 TONS—We had a very productive day!

### 2006 National Award Application Available

The application for the 2006 Take Pride National Awards is posted on our website at [www.TakePride.gov](http://www.TakePride.gov). Applications can be completed online or submitted via fax.



All Take Pride events are eligible to be nominated, so long as it occurred or is in progress between June 5, 2005 and June 4, 2006. The application deadline is June 16, 2006. The Awards Ceremony will be in September 2006 in Washington, DC. There are 12 categories for consideration of awards.

- Individual
- School Program (Elementary, Secondary, Post-Secondary)
- State Event/ Program
- Federal Land Managers
- Corporation
- Non-Profit Organization
- Faith Based Group
- Federal Volunteer Event/ Program
- Local Government Event/ Program
- Youth/ Youth Group
- Public/ Private Partnership
- Outstanding Take Pride Partner Award

## AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

### USACE Salutes Volunteers, Staff at Lake Okeechobee

On Wednesday, March 22, volunteers and staff of the South Florida Operations Office in Clewiston, Florida were recognized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with an awards presentation and recognition luncheon. Nearly thirty volunteers were awarded Take Pride Appreciation Certificates for staffing the visitor centers and recreation areas, conducting water safety programs, collecting manatee data, and completing carpentry work. Water Safety Volunteers celebrated reaching over 20,000 elementary school students with important messages of water safety—a valuable lesson in Florida. Seven volunteers were presented the Presidential Award for more than 4,000 hours of service each over their lifetime. All seven have achieved their award at Lake Okeechobee. Over the past year, the volunteers provided the Corps a value of service that exceeded \$250,000. Their contributions ensure the success of the South Florida Operations Office and reflect highly upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### Welcome New Supporter!

#### National Wildlife Federation

Take Pride is pleased to welcome our newest Steward Supporter, the National Wildlife Federation. The NWF works to protect America's wildlife and represents four million members and supporters. They are joined by affiliated wildlife organizations in 47 states and territories.



### New Take Pride Schools!

Uptown School Complex in Atlantic City, NJ  
Principal Chris Bennett

Forest Hills Northern High School in  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Principal Fred Wisniewski

### Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at [TakePride@ios.doi.gov](mailto:TakePride@ios.doi.gov) for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.

## Free Ride!

### Giant USA Donates Mountain Bikes to Santa Monica Mountains NRA

Woody Smeck, Superintendent of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, accepted the gift of two mountain bikes from Giant USA on March 8. These were given in honor of Acting Secretary Scarlett's January visit to the Santa Monica Mountains to learn about their public/private partnership with IMBA. Thanks to Giant USA, IMBA and the Santa Monica Mountains NRA for working in the spirit of partnership!



*Jim Hasenauer of IMBA and Jon Stierwalt of Giant USA present the bikes to Woody Smeck.*

## For Your Information

If you would like our Take Pride Volunteer Guides, brochures or plastic banners for your next event, simply email us the quantity and we will send them to you. Additionally, we have other items that can be sent to help you reward your volunteers for their service. Please call us to discuss your needs.

To view a copy of the Volunteer Guide online, visit [http://www.takepride.info/volguide/doi\\_volguide.pdf](http://www.takepride.info/volguide/doi_volguide.pdf)

Please continue to look for the Take Pride public service announcements in print and broadcast on television. Let us know if you see one of our ads featuring the Take Pride message and Clint Eastwood.

Email [takepride@ios.doi.gov](mailto:takepride@ios.doi.gov) if you have information for our newsletter, or if you have questions.